

Episode: Luke Series No. 19

Narrator: Peter and Pilate

Primary Scriptures: Luke 22, 23

Story Summary: Betrayal of Jesus, trials of Jesus, death of Jesus

Location: Jerusalem

Time: Circa 30 AD

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Luke 22:3, 22:19-20, 22:32, 22:40, 22:46, 23:34, 23:47, 23:49

Luke writes about the Last Supper, as well as Jesus' arrest, trial crucifixion, death, and burial in only two chapters. He writes about those events in rather terse language and doesn't provide many details; you can read the two chapters in less than ten minutes. You will have to read the accounts in the other Gospels to get a much fuller description of what happened in those twenty-four hours.

Without giving exact chronological timing, Luke issues a forewarning of Jesus' death by telling of Judas' agreement to betray Jesus to the Jewish leaders. Luke does not make it clear whether the betrayal happened because Satan entered into Judas or because of the payment of money, or both.

Luke only briefly describes the Last Supper and some of Jesus' conversations. You have to read the account in *John* to have an appreciation of the momentous events that happened at that time.

Peter was likely one of Luke's information sources for what happened the night of Jesus' arrest. Perhaps that is why Luke includes Jesus' prophecy about Peter's denial of Jesus and the later fulfillment of that prophecy. However, Luke does not identify Peter as the one who cut off Malchus' ear, as John did.¹

Throughout history, Pilate has been either vilified or exonerated of his actions that resulted in the crucifixion of Jesus. He was no doubt a violent man, but was he evil or just doing his job as a Roman official? The Jewish leaders knew they could possibly end Pilate's career by causing a big enough riot, so his desire both to keep his position and to do a good job were sufficient to cause him to end the life of Jesus.

It is tempting to think of the crucifixion of Jesus as a special event. In fact, crucifixion was a common capital punishment of the Romans, Persians, Carthaginians, and other cultures, often used to punish political or religious agitators, pirates and slaves. As an example, in the aftermath of the slave rebellion led by Spartacus, about 11,000 rebelling slaves were crucified by the Roman Generals Crassus and Pompey.

¹ John 18:10

Discussion Questions:

1. It appears that Jesus knew Judas was going to betray him, and even suspected when it would occur. Why do you think Jesus did not avoid his arrest? Why do you think God did not send angels to rescue Jesus?
 2. Jesus told Peter that he would deny him. How do you think that made Peter feel? What kinds of things do you do that might open you to the accusation that you deny Jesus?
 3. Why was Pilate in Jerusalem the day of Jesus' trial?
 4. Why did Pilate send Jesus to his death even though he knew Jesus did not deserve it?
 5. Why was Jesus crucified instead of killed a different way?
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1. Don't overtly identify myself as a Christian, allow people to say bad things about Jesus without objecting to it. 3. It was Passover and Pilate knew there was the chance of unrest in the city when there were so many people there. 4. Pilate's first objective was to keep peace because his job depended on doing that. 5. Crucifixion was a normal way to punish religious or political agitators.

Application Questions:

1. If you knew you only had 24 hours to live, what would you do? What would you tell your family members?
2. In what ways can you deny Jesus? How can you take measures to keep you from doing so?
3. Have you ever done something at work that was against your personal ethics? Do you remember why you made the choice to do so? Would you act differently now?

Application Questions for Teens:

1. One reason Judas betrayed Jesus was to receive money. What are some reasons that might cause you to betray a friend or relative?
2. Peter was sure he would not deny Jesus under any circumstance, yet the question of a mere servant girl caused him to angrily deny Jesus. Have you ever gotten scared far out of proportion to the actual danger?
3. The guards mocking Jesus did so without fear because they were in power and they were harming a powerless person. How can you keep from doing the same sort of thing to powerless people?